

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 002457

SIPDIS

STATE ALSO PASS USAID/W
STATE PLEASE REPEAT TO IO COLLECTIVE
STATE FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB
NSC FOR EABRAMS, SMCCORMICK, STAHIR-KHELI, JDWORKEN
USAID FOR USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/FFP
USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK, BMCCONNELL, KFARNSWORTH
USAID FOR ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTIC AND DART
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [IZ](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECTOR MEETING 13 MAY

SUMMARY

1. The DART attended the weekly food and nutrition sector meeting at the WFP office in Basrah on 13 May. The Central Ministry of Trade in Baghdad, in coordination with WFP, has decided the first countrywide PDS distribution will begin in June. The MOT is holding a meeting in Baghdad on 20 May with all the governorate MOT directors in preparation. WFP is visiting all governorates in preparation for a June distribution.

2. Save the Children/U.S. is beginning vulnerable group feeding in Basrah governorate and has visited all seven Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers in Basrah city. International Medical Corps recently visited Maysan governorate and reported that about 200 families (1,000 people) have returned to Maysan from the Kirkuk area. Iraqis migrating from the north and refugees returning to Maysan, and other southern governorates, will need to register at the local ration registration center to be added to the PDS in the new location. End Summary.

FIRST NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION IN JUNE

3. The Central Ministry of Trade (MOT) and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) are targeting the first countrywide public distribution to begin in June. The MOT wants to wait until June to begin this distribution because of insecurity, access, communications, and salary payment issues. Even though the MOT had been distributing double rations for several months prior to the war, leading to June rations being provided in February, the slate will now be wiped clean and distributions for the actual month will begin. Restarting in June on a monthly cycle will ensure balance and equity, rather than trying to reconcile the differences between locations that have accumulated over the last couple months.

4. WFP teams are visiting all governorates to prepare MOT staff for the upcoming food distribution. WFP has been using the month of May to provide commodities that were missing in the food rations already distributed, but the Central MOT has made a unilateral decision in Baghdad to stop these "catch-up" distributions during last two weeks of May. Even though the full distributions will begin on 1 June, they will take place on a staggered basis by governorate throughout the month. The MOT is holding a meeting in Baghdad on 20 May with all the governorate MOT directors in preparation. In addition, a week ago, the directors of mills and silos from various governorates were called to Baghdad to discuss preparations for the June distributions.

WFP ASSESSMENTS IN THE SOUTH

5. About ten days ago, WFP and GOAL did a joint assessment of vulnerable groups and their food needs in Dhi Qar governorate. Special attention was paid to targeting hospitals, orphanages, elderly centers, and disabled centers. The results of this assessment will be forthcoming. WFP and the MOT in Maysan met to discuss MOT office security and to create a list of office needs, such as equipment and furniture. A WFP Mission took place in Maysan on 9 May, and a request was brought to the military to provide security to the MOT/WFP warehouses. A joint International Organization for Migration (IOM)/WFP mission is scheduled this week to Maysan to assess needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) that were located. IDPs

from the north and returning refugees in Maysan, and other governorates, will need to register to update their ration cards.

16. In the south and elsewhere, transport costs for food agents have risen substantially because of the shortage of fuel. The agents have passed along this increased cost to the beneficiaries, sometimes charging as much as 600 dinars for the ration (rather than 250 dinars). Even though beneficiaries understand this increase, it is an obvious strain on households. WFP hopes to soon provide fuel to the agents to counteract this problem.

17. Coalition forces made a request to the DART for rice and powdered milk for Al Samawah in Al Muthanna governorate, as it said that the local council needed these commodities to complete a distribution. DART discussed it with WFP, who traveled to Al Samawah on 12 May and discussed the request with the MOT. The MOT stated that it did not want to make up for the missed commodities, but focus on the June distribution, and WFP concurred.

NGO REPORTS

18. Save the Children/U.S. (SCF/US) reported that the MOT warehouse in Az Zubayr is being guarded in part by local watchmen who are asking who will pay their salaries and when. SCF/US, WFP's implementing partner for Basrah governorate, has requested that WFP release a one month's ration for distribution to 18 IDP families in Az Zubayr, two IDP families in Safwan, and a pensioners home and orphanage in Basrah.

19. SCF/US has begun working in all seven Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers (NRC) located in hospitals in Basrah. All have enough supplies to re-start operations. The number of malnourished children has doubled in several governorates, according to UNICEF. UNICEF is bringing in seven metric tons (MT) of F-100 (therapeutic milk) for Basrah, and 5 MT for An Najaf hospitals.

110. A team from the International Medical Corps (IMC) has just returned from a week in Maysan governorate and reported that there are 200 families (about 1,000 people) returning to the Maysan area from Kirkuk who will have to be registered in the PDS to receive rations. These families were relocated to the north during Saddam Hussein's "Arabization" initiative during the early 1990's.

JONES